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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Merseburg Airfield Installations

DATE DISTR.

18 FEB 1979

NO. PAGES

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REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF
INFO.

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report

which gives information under the following headings: (1) Runway and Taxiway, (2) Radio and Radar Equipment, (3) POL Dump, (4) Housing, and (5) Telephone Communications. The following attachments are also included:

Attachment A: A sketch showing the runway and its extension in relation to searchlights.

" B: A sketch of a tower and an aerial.

" C: A sketch of a radio truck with aerial.

" D: A sketch of a radio truck with antenna and a box-like attachment.

" E: A sketch of tanks at the POL dump.

" F: A sketch of possible concrete shelters.

" G: An overlay map of Merseburg airfield

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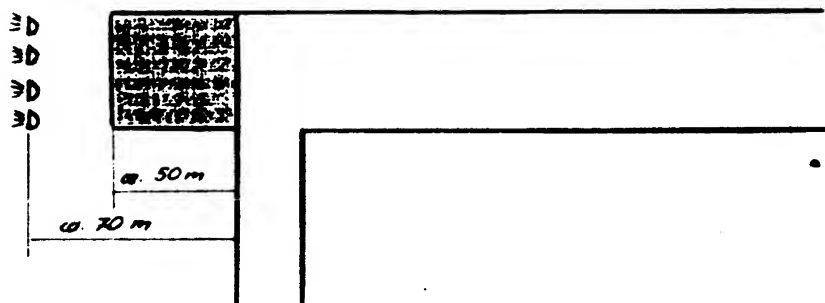
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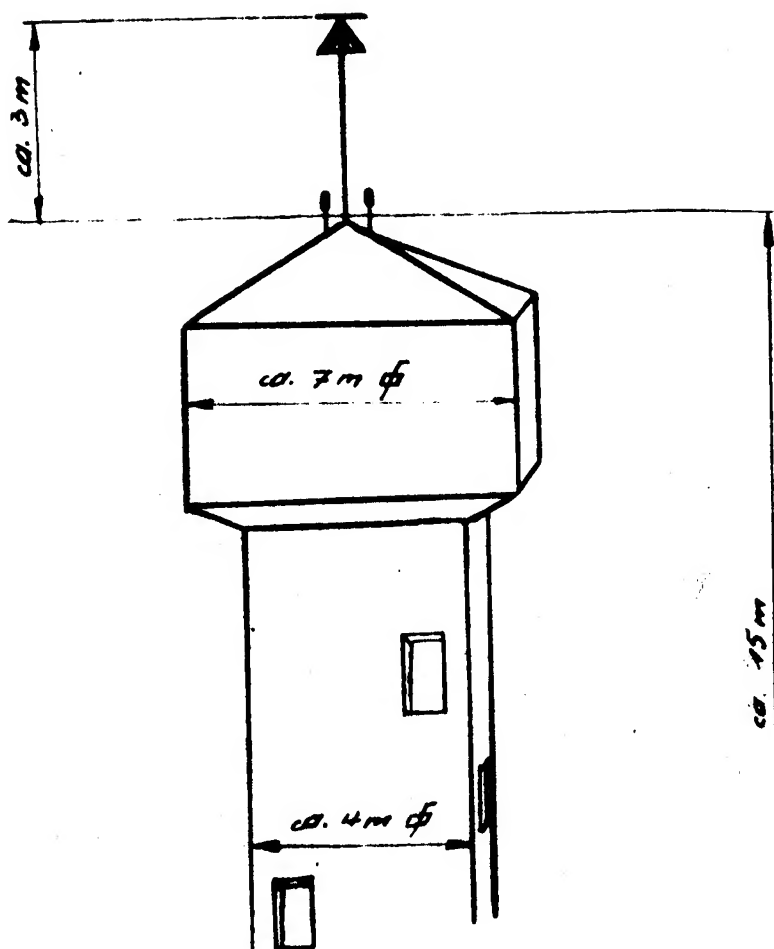
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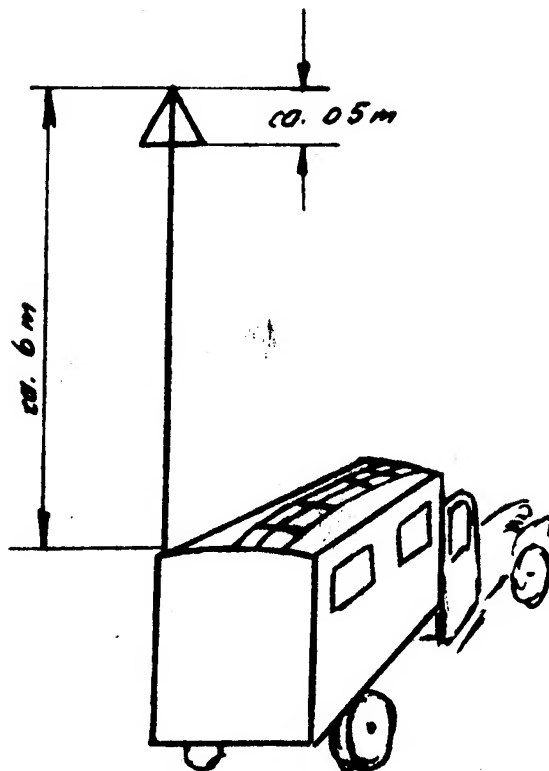
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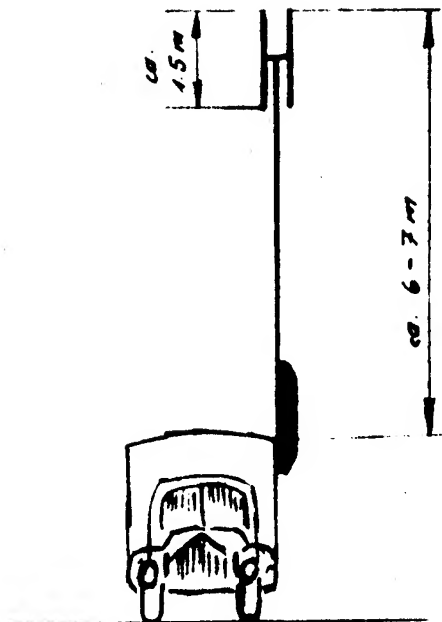
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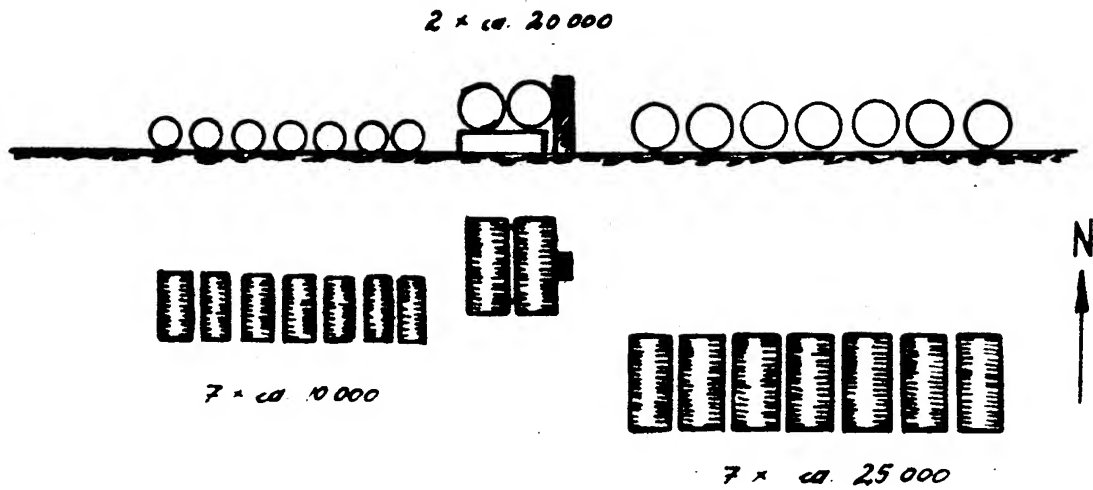
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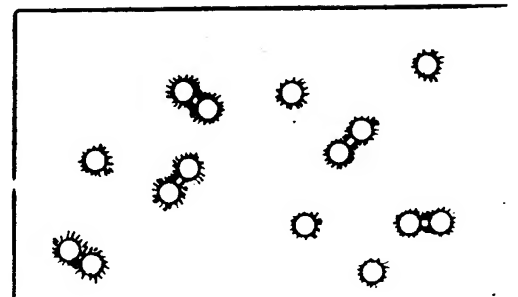
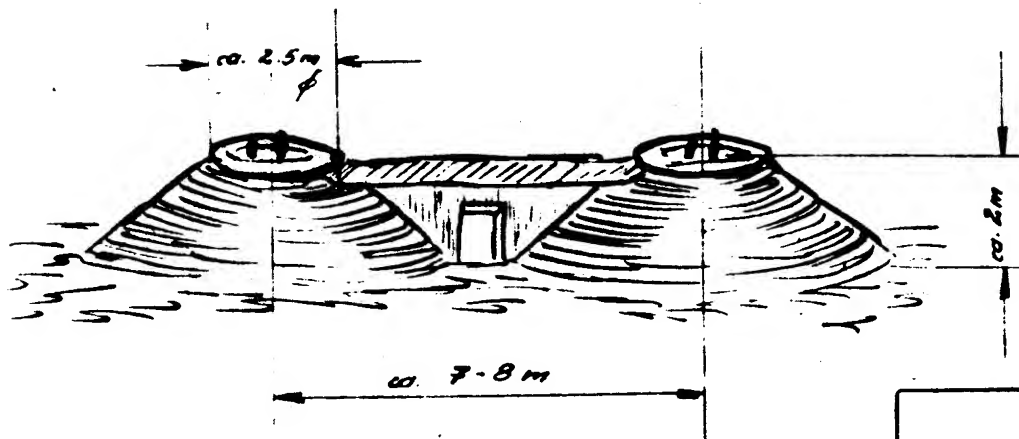
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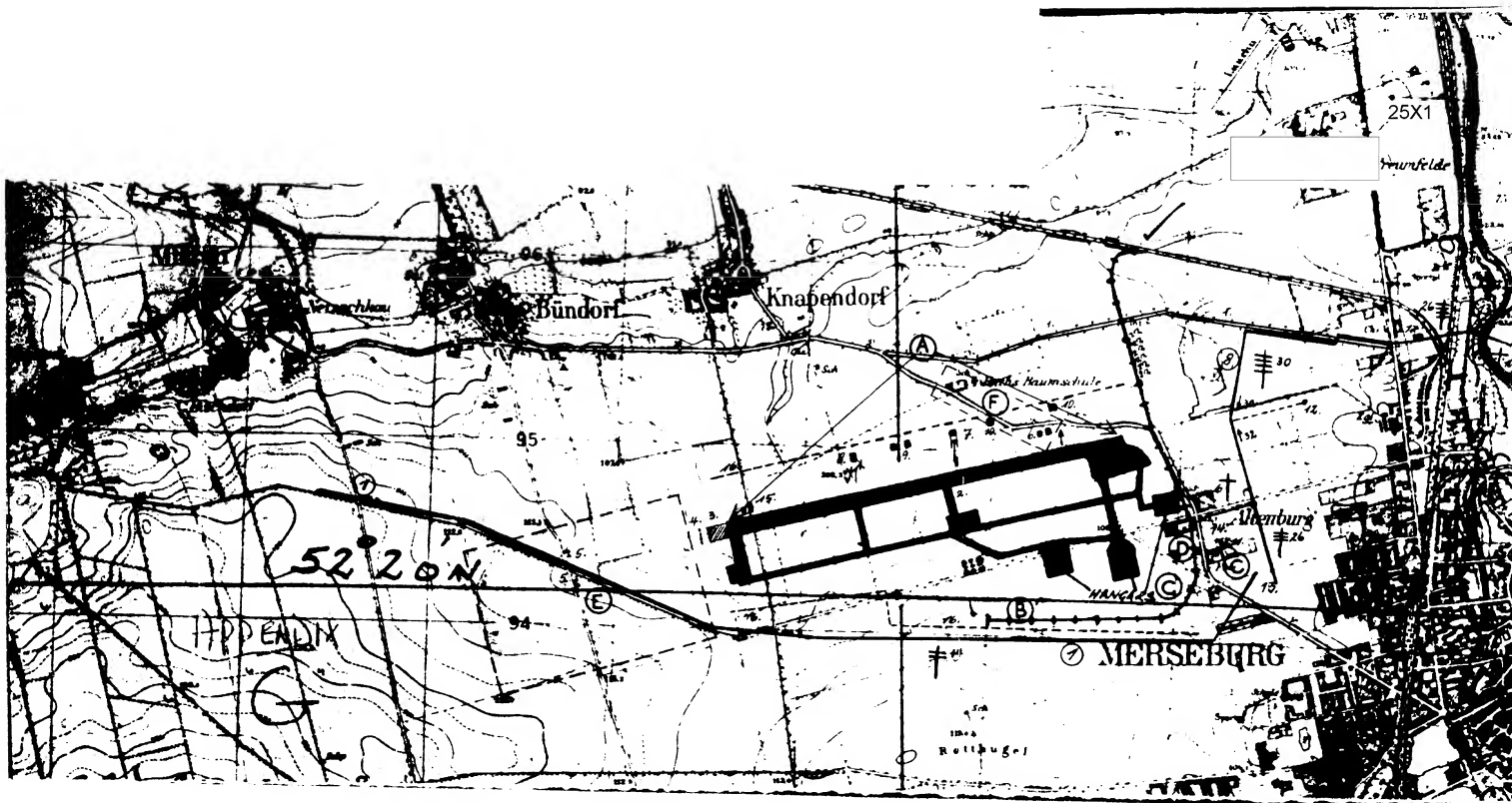


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SECRETEAST GERMANY/U.S.S.R.AIRMERSEBURG AIRFIELD(18 - 23 December 1958.)

Attached at Appendix 'G'  a map 
 of MERSEBURG Airfield with certain additions
and amendments as follows:

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Runway and taxi track.

1. At point No. 2 on the map an additional track connecting runway with taxi track has been drawn in.
2. The extension to the western end of the runway (marked No. 3 on the map) is some 50 metres long. It has been levelled but not concreted and is of the same breadth as the runway.
3. Some 70 metres west of the western end of the runway there are four searchlights in a row, pointing towards the west (marked No. 4 on the map). The sketch attached at Appendix 'A' shows the runway and its extension in relation to the searchlights.
4. Some 700 metres further west there are four more searchlights standing in pairs (marked No. 5 on the map).
5. In the area marked (F) on the map no building activity was observed.

Radio and Radar equipment.

6. At the point No. 11 on the map there stands an old water tower some 15 metres high. On the roof of the tower there are two red position lights and a wireless aerial some 3 metres tall. At Appendix 'B' is a sketch of the tower and aerial.
7. A little north of the eastern end of the runway, at position No. 6 on the map, stand two W/T trucks with box bodies and rod antennae. The antennae are some 6 metres tall and have on the top a three-cornered piece some 0.5 metres in height.
8. The only difference between the two W/T trucks is that one has a parasol-type antenna on the roof as well as a rod antenna, while the other has a rod antenna only. Attached at Appendix 'C' is a sketch of the truck and antenna.
9. Some 400 - 500 metres west of these two trucks another W/T truck, at position No. 7 on the map, is standing. The antenna on this truck is some 6 - 7 metres high and split at the top into two smaller, vertical antennae, some 1.5 metres long.
10. On the side of the lower part of the antenna an upright box-like object is attached which overlaps from the bottom of the antenna to the box body of the truck. Attached at Appendix 'D' is a sketch of the truck with antenna and box-like attachment.

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
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11. At position No. 8 on the map stands a KNIFEREST array and W/T truck. Until October, 1958, a similar array was located at position No. 7 on the map, where one of the W/T trucks now stands. It is not known exactly when it was moved.

12. At position No. 9 on the map, midway between Nos. 7 and 8, stand two box-bodied trucks with no antennae.

POL dump.

13. The POL dump is in the position marked (B) on the map, south of the taxi track and south-west of the hangars, and consists of 16 tanks in three groups. In the middle stand two tanks together on cement bases, with a further group of 7 tanks on each side. The two tanks in the middle have an estimated capacity of 20,000 litres each. A group of smaller tanks to one side have an estimated capacity of 10,000 litres each, while the other group consists of larger tanks each holding an estimated capacity of 25,000 litres. Total capacity of the dump is therefore estimated at 285,000 litres.

14. Beside the two middle tanks which have cement bases stands an upright wooden box which may contain a  pump. Attached at Appendix 'E' is a sketch of the POL dump.

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15. Between the POL dump and the taxi track there are some 17 - 20 round earthworks-type erections some 2 metres in height. They are erected singly or in pairs and are scattered around in no discernable pattern. In some of them cement walls can be seen through the earth, suggesting that they are concrete boxes or shelters with earth thrown up around them.

16. The diameter of these boxes or erections at the top is some 2.5 metres. The lid or cover on top appears to be of metal from which short tubes can be seen emerging like valves or connections.

17. Where they are in pairs the space between the two is some 7 - 8 metres. This space is filled in or covered over with earth, in the midst of which can be seen openings rather like hatchways through which access is presumably gained to the interior.

18. No tubes, wires or pipes could be seen connecting any of these erections to each other. Attached at Appendix 'F' is a sketch of a pair of them, showing the earthwork and opening between.

Housing.

19. At a point marked (C) on the map, east of the hangars, there are 25 - 30 large, stone, 2-storeyed buildings with 9 windows along the front on each storey and 3 windows along the side. These are taken to be living accommodation for Russian families as a number of small children were playing in a playground nearby.

Telephone communications.

20. Telephone line No. 1, marked as (1) on the map, reaches the airfield coming from the west. The line runs along outside and not inside the airfield perimeter fence (marked as No. 16 on the map). The line has 14 wires and appears to go in the direction of the houses at position (C). It was not possible to ascertain whether the line in fact ends there.

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21. Another line to the airfield comes from the north and the number of wires in it varies. From the airfield to a point near the signal station (marked as position No. 12 on the map) the line has 32 wires. From that point on it has 30, from which it may be assumed that two wires go in an underground cable to the signal station.

22. Of the 32 wires 26 on 3 cross traverses come from the housing estate marked as 13 on the map and the remaining 6 on one cross traverse from the airfield installations.

23. From the signal station onwards this line, marked as No. 8 on the map, has 30 wires on 4 cross traverses as far as the MERSEBURG - HALLE road.

24. When, however, the line reaches the distributor post on the west side of the SAALE it only has 26 wires (see point marked 26 on the map). From this it is assumed that the missing 4 lines go by underground cable to a building occupied by Russians and marked as position No. 17 on the map. This building is a small, single-storeyed, rustic-type house and though occupied by Russians has no overhead telephone wires leading to it.

25. From the distributor post west of the SAALE the line splits up into two lines, numbered(13) and (15) on the map, with 16 and 10 wires respectively.

Appendices./.....

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APPENDICES.

- 'A' Runway extension and searchlights (see paras. 2 - 3 of report).
- 'B' Water tower with aerial (see para. 6 of report).
- 'C' W/T truck with antenna (see paras. 7 - 8 of report).
- 'D' W/T truck with antenna (see paras. 9 - 10 of report).
- 'E' POL dump (see para. 13 of report).
- 'F' Earthwork-cement erections (see paras. 15 - 18 of report).
- 'G' Map of MERSEBURG Airfield with key as follows:
 - 1. MERSEBURG - LAUCHSTADT road.
 - 2. Track connecting runway and taxi track.
 - 3. Runway extension.
 - 4. Four searchlights.
 - 5 (twice) Two pairs of searchlights.
 - 6. Two W/T trucks.
 - 7. One W/T truck.
 - 8. One W/T truck and KNIPEREST array.
 - 9. Two trucks.
 - 10. Watchtowers.
 - 11. Water tower with position lights and antenna.
 - 12. Signal station.
 - 13. Housing estate.
 - 14. A/A post.
 - 15. Two wooden huts.
 - 16. Airfield perimeter fence.
 - 17. Single-storeyed building occupied by Soviets.
 - (B) POL dump area.
 - (C) Russian family quarters.
 - (F) Area where no building activity taking place.
 - (1) }
(8) } Telephone lines.
(13) }
(15) }

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